

**CONFIDENTIAL**

DD/S 57-39281

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57-39281

Mr. Charles A. Sullivan  
Assistant Director for Plans and Readiness  
Office of Defense Mobilization  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

Regarding the recent Signal Corps proposal outlined in your letter of 20 November 1957, addressed to Mr. Dulles, this Agency believes it is inadvisable to rely exclusively on commercial facilities in time of a national emergency, in view of the critical and vital importance of rapid uninterrupted communications to the Executive Office and to the other critical agencies. While we have great respect for the services provided by the commercial companies during peacetime and under normal emergency conditions, it is our opinion that a Government owned and operated microwave system should be retained as an R&D requirement interconnecting the several security agencies. Our position is not meant to infer a lack of faith in the commercial companies, but rather to be prepared to the utmost in support of a national defense effort under full emergency conditions.

I hope that our position will assist you in formulating a policy on this matter. If you wish an expansion of our views stated above, we shall be happy to elaborate further upon your request.

Sincerely,

*L. K. White*

L. K. White  
Deputy Director

EPO/MWB:rvh (5 Dec. 1957)

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